AMENT'S

Explanation is reviewed by the Sun.

YORK PAPER'S KEEN ANALYSIS

Ament and His Confisca-Board Exposed Themhes to Serious Rebuke.

to the cause of nd-hearted, coura-

in contemporaneous question was an ab-

sm, to a specific ex-

Commissioners for

are presently going to mistly wronged the Rev. Males to the size of his exthe people of the Chinese the native Christians had our outrages. Previously its arrest at Tung Chow by on the charge of leading be had been engaged in illecting damages claimed its under his care. A disa is the Sun of December 24 m as demanding and rethe local authorities, in adattual damages alleged, a a to thirteen times the infact is that the additional It Dr. Ament was scaled a excess of the indemnity, times the amount. The M is transmission over the an operator's This mistake

had been ascertained and of the American Board Ament's statement of the this acts, and his gennary duty under such frank and comprehen-Maker to those numerous have been abroad for question to be deter-

t our Peking dispatches

many weeks" resolve these four charges Abent and perhaps other missionaries in China,

authorities of indemniof life or property sufconverts during the se indemnities being ted extra-judicially by themselves, that is to authorized by Chinese or treaty arrangements

mount of direct dams is the additional fine excess, transformed by ader in the first disinto thirteen times in

e and un-Christian geof some of the mistheir erring Boxer

ast the unconverted s to say, the approbelonging to absent ese, and the sale of

benefit of the missions in any reputable of Dr. Ament or other does not fall under these heads, we have

it. We shall now exstatement to see how a clear and complete ur charges catalogued dimnities imposed on ssionaries, without that which their iscovered in the neceson, and without check

This extra-judicial anocent on account of gully Dr. Ament not only try little hope of native their buildials, nor did think they were callO. BAINBRIDGE, M. A.



bridge will appear under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association in his varied and bright recital, in which he will play a number of. parts. He will describe in an eloquent and humorous manner the many wonderful experiences and escapes that Dr. have befallen him in the numerous foreign countries that he has so successfullly passed through. The Hobart Duchess of York. a most enjoyable recital of adventure, interspersed with sparkling humor and clever lightning sketches." Mr. Bainbridge will give a number of his blackboard sketches and illustrated stories which are spoken of as exceedingly clever and highly amusing. During the London, will play several diffied with such eminent masters as Ko- make a delightful evening.

Auckland Herald says of Rafalewski's recital, in which Mrs. Bambridge assisted: "The difficult accompaniments to Rafalewski's violin solos were most admirably played by Miss Jessie Teas-dale (Mrs. Bainbridge), Dr. Kouski (first musician to the Emperor of Germany), Gordon Saunders (who writes the most difficult studies in the world), Dr. Vincent and others. The other day she received an autograph copy from her old teacher, Webbe, of his wonderful work on music, dedicated to the Mr. Bainbridge Mercury says: "Our distinguished visi- leaves here shortly, and after appeartor's lecture is not a dry discourse, but ing in San Francisco will walk across America to New York, carrying his swag and camera, writing and lecturing by the way. He expects to do America in about eight months; then he will cross to Ireland, Scotland, and hopes to be in London by June, 1902. It will be understood that Mr. Bainevening Mr. Bainbridge will recite bridge has to maintain himself during some of his own compositions. Mrs. his tour by his own exertions—but re-Bainbridge, who holds honors from ceives ample remuneration on the com-Trinity College and Royal Academy of pletion of his enormous undertaking. A large audience should greet this talcult selections. She has been associat- ented couple, whose combined efforts walski and Rafalewski (the cleverest can be had of Wall, Nichols & Co., and all-round musician in the world). The Young Men's Christian Association.

the outbreak.

'All the survivors of our churches were distinctly admitted by Dr. Ament: reduced to absolute poverty. They were unrestrained, unedited harmless, inoffensive people who had no fellows: To demand the rebuilding of intruded their religion upon any one. This was at least true of the Protestant Chris-

"If a missionary by means of his personal influence and by the assistance of to him could bring the neighbors of his persecuted people to see the errors of their ways, and persuade them to condestroyed houses, and for the support of is justified in so doing. It seems to me he would be hard-hearted to do other-

Ament any conscious lack of candor in this manner of descriping his tour of the persons guilty of the original outsystematic assessment and collection, at the rate of 500 taels for each convert pation in it. slain. If in the course of his month's hard work at assessment and collection in Wenah, Paoting-hsien, Pachow, Pingting, Chochow, Liang-ksiang, Shuni, and the other towns of his district, he found everywhere charitable unconverted Chinese villagers ready to subscribe voluntarily a total of many thousands of dollars as a relief fund for destitute Christian converts, we can only say that there are parts of the world where Christian missionaries are more urgently needed than in that part of China.

How far coercion, direct or impliedhow far terrorism and the fear of consequences entered into the process of bringing the neighbors of the persecuted people "to see the errors of their ways" and to hand over their taels to the Rev. Dr. Ament, will be known only affer his arrival in this country and a careful investigation of all the circumstances attending his tour of assessment and col-He says now that no harsh measures were resorted to. He said a month ago in a letter to the Rev. Dr. Judson Smith that he had "made no use of foreign soldiers and brought no exfittelsms which have ternal pressure to bear, relying in all cases upon the justice of our claims." But what does Dr. Ament mean when in his Peking interview describing the not necessarily against voluntary contributions of the unconvert-

ed villages he goes on to say: "Not to have taken some such measures would have indicated to the Boxer sympathizers an abnormal weakness and indifference to the sufferings of our native Christians that would have tended to increase the latter's troubles by raising the courage of their enemies?"

And what does he mean when he adds in the very next paragraph:

"In all cases, so far as I know, the missionaries have yielded on the side of generosity and charity in the collection of this indemnity?"

It is hard to understand the psychologic relations between the collector of indemnity for the despised converts and the unconverted who are voluntarily paying indemnity on the strength attitude, or at least an of the collector's unsupported appeals, when it is the collector and not donor that assumes credit for "yielding on the side of generosity and charity." And Dr. Ament has just given us this description of the people to whose generosity and sense of justice he says he appealed successfully wherever

he carried his subscription book: Experience in China proves that seeming weakness in dealing with the Chinese only increases their spirit of distrust and their desire to continue in crime. Excessive kindness they will attribute to fear; the spirit of altruism is entirely alien to their natures."

We fear that there is something yet to be cleared up concerning the methods and details of the systematic exaction of things that attracted criticism they did indemnity. Meanwhile, Dr. Ament's statement establishes the fact of that desire to provide for the people for whom systematic collection of indemnity by a they felt more or less responsible." self-constituted Court of Equity or Dr. Ament himself took possession of Claims Commission consisting of the palace from which a Mongol prince missionaries themselves, responsible to had fled at the approach of the relief exno lawful authority and acting under no pedition. The reverend doctor does not legal warrant. The interference was not deny that he appropriated and sold off even in behalf of American citizens. It the valuables belonging to the Mongol was between Chinese and Chinese. There prince whose house he occupied but is nothing in our treaties with China urges as an excuse that this same prince

this respect.

Secondly, as to the infliction on the villagers of an additional penalty, over and lagers of the missionary sellrepy reluctant to under- lagers of an additional penalty, over and right or propriety of the lagers of an additional penalty, over and right or propriety of the found in the

take their protection at the beginning of the mission funds. This extra fine of thirty-three and one-third per cent is money received for the sale of his goods

feuds with their neighbors and had not houses, or an equivalent in money, to demand payment for tools and grains carone who was the provider, the sum of ed this general proposition: 500 taels is demanded for the support of visible means of support,"

No comment is needed here. However, satisfactory to the Rev. Dr. Ament's contribute money for the rebuilding of the science was the motive of his demands upon the villages, the collection of the the survivors of the families, I think he indemnity and the collection of the auditional exaction for the mission funds was conceived and carried out in the spirit of lynch law; and in many if not most cases the penalty imposed by Rev. Dr. Ament must have fallen not upon rage, but upon those innocent of partici-

> As to the general attitude of the Rev. Dr. Ament toward the Chinese who have looting of abandoned houses by missionnot accepted the gospel he went forth to preach, his statement is illuminating. There is no word from beginning to end that is in sympathy with the spirit of justified on the military ground of "livbrotherhood and mercy and forgiveness which is so large a part of the religion Christ taught to mankind. The reverend doctor is a missionary of the Church militant. He is a practical man. He believes in making examples of the wicked. In questions of punishment for crimes committed against the native tively so." But it is doubtful if these Christians, he seems at every point disposed to demand an eye for an eye and

> a tooth for a tooth. We quote his criticism of the lenity of an expedition despatched by General Wilson into the region east of Peking to rescue certain Christian families who were surrounded to his Chinese converts as one of their by Boxers. General Wilson's orders were that no soldier should fire a gun unless fired upon. Of this expedition the Rev. Dr. Ament remarks with some show of exasperation:

"The Chinese could not understand such leniency. A well-equipped body of 265 cavalrymen, under able officers, passed through a region filled with bloodthirsty Boxers, whose hands were red with the blood of more than a hundred Christians, where thousands of dollars' worth of property had been destroyed and many chapels burned, and not one man was called to account for this terrible lawlessness!"

And a little further on he contrasts the swift retribution that fell upon any community that fired upon the invading military with the forbearance shown to villages where the missionaries and their

flocks had suffered: "One gun fired at a troop of foreign soldiers would easily result in the destruction of a village or villages and the loss of many lives. That was considered justice or the necessities of warfare. But in a village where scores of native Christians have perished by the hands of the Boxers, and missionaries have been driven out and vilified, for the latter to demand the punishment of a few notorious leaders is considered by some contrary to the professions they make."

Is not this an extraordinary complaint? Does it not read as if it came from an Old Testament Christian? The fourth charge has been that of

looting. The Rev. Dr. Ament says: "In explanation of anything that missionaries may have done in the line of looting, it is only right to say that famine was predicted for the coming winter, that they had hundreds of people in their charge who were in immediate need of food, clothing and shelter and who looked to the missionaries for assistance. It is but justice to them to say that if in the ardor of their desire to provide for their people they did some it with the best of intentions and honest

conferring upon the missionaries the had been active in the persecution of the functions they admit having exercised in mission people, and in the destruction of

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place he took as a residence. At the close of the siege missionaries in common with all other foreigners in Peking had to hasten and gather in what grain they could from various sources for their own and their people's consumption. As they had no money with which to purchase clothing and other necessaries for themselves and their people, it was suggested by the United States Minister, Mr. Conger, that the missionaries sell the stuff found on the premises they oc-. . It would seem but the mildest form of punishment that the clothing and curios found in his (the Mongol prince's) premises should be sold for the benefit of those who had survived his murderous attacks."

And he goes on: "If there is anything wrong in mis I should be pleased to have our critics point it out. Furthermore, if a proper indemnity is paid by the Chinese Government for the support during those few months of the people who had been rendered homeless by the Boxers the sum of

avowed looting, this taking possession of the plea that there was nowhere else for ried off, or for animals stolen; in case the him to go, and no other way of supporthead of a family had been murdered, or ing himself, the Rev. Dr. Ament advanc-

If there was any moral obliquity in the local official who might be friendly widows and orphans who have no other looking toward those places as their rightful abodes, we fall to discern it and ask our critics to point out how we could have done differently in times of such special stress and necessity. While believing that right is always right and wrong is always wrong, yet there are many actions that are relatively so. While one year ago it would have been a moral wrong to walk into these premises and take our abode there, we contend that we were fully justified in what we have done under the circumstances above described."

In several other parts of his interview the Rev. Dr.Ament admits the fact of the axies, and the sale of the looted articles for the account of their unlawful pos-sessors. The deeds he narrates can be ing off the enemy's country." They can be justified again on the theory that permits the despoiling of the Egyptians. Finally, they seem to come under the Rev. Dr. Ament's maxim that while "right is always right and wrong is always wrong, yet there are many actions that are relasame deeds of plunder and conversion into cash, no matter on what ground excused, will stand the searching light of the language of one of the commandments conveyed to Moses on Sinai, and by the Rev. Dr. Ament probably taught very earliest lessons in Christianity.



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